

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors
Minutes

September 18, 2003
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, Ca.

Chair Jane Dolan called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. at the above location. It was determined there was a quorum of (11) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	David Womble	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	(Don Anderson)	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	Brendon Flynn	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR		(Dwight Russell)	Stacy Cepello
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			(Pete Rabbon)
US F&WS			Darrin Thome
US COE			Mark Charlton
Bureau of Reclamation			(Frank Michny)
Names listed in parentheses represent absences			
Manager Burt Bundy			
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary			
DWR			Alison Groom

1. Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters – Diana Jacobs, Department of Fish and Game (DFG) reported on a conference scheduled for October 7th and 8th at the Red Bluff Community Center on Battle Creek restoration. More information is available on the CALFED website: calwater.ca.gov. Henry Lomeli is the new biologist assigned to the Sacramento River Wildlife Area. Darrin Thome, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), announced John Thomson will be leaving and moving to the Bureau of Reclamation. Darrin will fill in for John at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC) meetings. John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT), announced an upcoming Salmon Festival on September 27th in Oroville sponsored by the Oroville Chamber of Commerce and DFG. The “Return of the Salmon Festival” will be held on October 18th sponsored by DFG and the Coleman Fish Hatchery. A barbeque will follow at the outlet stores in Anderson. SRPT will offer a float on the river on October 19th from Jelly’s Ferry to Bend; the cost is \$35.00 and includes lunch. John also noted the “Salmon Country Conference” will be held on October 24th at the Red Bluff Community Center; the focus will be on the area between Red Bluff and Anderson. The cost is \$20.00 which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Tours will be available the following day.

Les Heringer, M&T, updated the group on the gravel bar intrusion at the pumping plant. The steering committee has just had its first meeting; a study funded by CALFED has begun to look at a long-term solution and should be completed by June, 2004. Ducks Unlimited is the project manager for the study. During the "short-term fix" approximately ½ of the gravel bar was removed, or 144,000 yards. Les acknowledged the SRCAF's contributions in helping to move this project forward and would anticipate the Forum will continue to play a role, especially once the long-term solution is determined.

2. Consent Calendar – A correction was noted to the June 19, 2003 minutes; Tom Ellis, alternate landowner representative for Colusa County, was in attendance in the absence of Ben Carter at the June 19th Board meeting. It was moved by Lynnel Pollock, seconded by Bill Borrer, to adopt the June 19th, 2003 minutes as corrected. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
3. Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers – The nominating committee consisting of Denny Bungarz, Marc Faye, Bill Borrer, and Pete Rabbon recommended the following slate of officers: Chair – Don Anderson, Vice-Chair – Lynnel Pollock, and Secretary/Treasurer – Brendon Flynn. The make-up of the Executive Committee would be Don Anderson, Lynnel Pollock, Brendon Flynn, Jane Dolan, Bill Borrer, Marc Faye, and Diana Jacobs. Denny Bungarz moved that the recommended slate of officers be accepted, seconded by Brendon Flynn, motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. In Don Anderson's absence, Lynnel Pollock presided over the remainder of the meeting. Lynnel thanked the nominating committee and Jane Dolan for her efforts as Chair over the past year.
4. Agency Reports – Mark Charlton, Corps of Engineers, (COE) noted the federal fiscal year ends September 30th. This year's budget is less than previous years and they hope to be able to continue with projects that have already been started. He is hearing some interest in the possibility of expanding the capacity in the Yolo by-pass. Stacy Cepello, Department of Water Resources (DWR), commented on two large projects that have potential impacts on water users. The Environmental Water Account has a draft out with the public comment period closed, and the Sacramento Valley Water Management Program with public comments scheduled to close by the middle of the month. Diana commented on the DFG Comprehensive Management Plan. An internal draft has been completed and the internal review will be completed by mid-October. The draft will be out for public review late October/November and there will be two public meetings, one in Colusa and one in Chico. Darrin Thome announced the draft annual work plan for the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) program will also be out for public comment. Contact Darrin at the USFWS office in Sacramento for more information regarding requests for proposals in the Habitat Restoration Program.
5. Briefing on North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage – Glen Pearson, DWR, introduced Sean Sou, DWR, and staff and Michael Tansey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, to update the group on the offstream storage investigation. The presentation discussed some the issues and challenges involved including conveyance options, identification of beneficiaries, the need for stable funding, and the Sacramento River flow regime consideration. The investigation has focused on four potential projects including Sites Reservoir; the estimated total project cost for Sites is 1.1 to 2.4 billion for construction, permitting or mitigation costs are not included. The Final Feasibility Report and EIS/EIR are scheduled to be completed by June, 2005. Denny commented that the Glenn County Board of Supervisors had also heard this presentation and

there were very positive comments about both the presentation and the team. Diana noted that the Bay-Delta Authority is developing a long-term financing plan for the CALFED program.

6. Board Committee Reports –

- *Executive Committee*- Jane Dolan noted the Committee reviewed and discussed the Board agenda.
- *Strategic Planning Committee* – Jane reported on the 2-day planning conference at Bridge Bay. There was a lot of good discussion as the group worked to define the goals of the SRCAF and how to accomplish them. A strategic planning committee is working with Marc Smiley on the draft plan and a ½ day planning workshop is scheduled for October 24th for the full Board to further define the plan.
- *Landowner Assurances Committee* – Chair Ben Carter reported on the letter to the CALFED Bay-Delta Authority. At the August 13th LAC meeting, the committee had recommended that the letter be reviewed by the Board via email and mailed out as soon as possible.

A letter to the SRCAF Board was received from the SRPT with concerns regarding the process at the LAC and the need for further discussion on the CALFED letter in an open venue. The Executive Committee reviewed both letters and recommended that the Board accept the CALFED letter, noting that some of the issues raised in the SRPT letter are being looked at within the strategic planning process and agreeing that the process is not in place for the Board to vote electronically. Ben moved that the letter be mailed to the CALFED Bay-Delta Authority as written, seconded by Jane Dolan. During the discussion Carol Wright and John Merz expanded on the issues that had been raised in the SRPT letter including their concerns regarding the voting process at the LAC, and that incorrect assumptions were reflected in the CALFED letter. John expressed concern that there was a bias at the LAC towards restoration activities and felt it was reflected in the CALFED letter as well. Ben noted that the process at the LAC is normally on a consensus basis, but the committee had proposed that if there is a recommendation that does not have full agreement of the members, there will be a vote on the recommendation by the voting members only, and the differing opinions will go forward to the Board in writing. He also commented that he felt the forum of the LAC has been open and did include all landowner perspectives. Following the discussion, the motion to accept the letter to CALFED as written was passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The next LAC meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2:00 p.m. at the Colusa County Farm Bureau office.
- *TAC Report* – Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, reported on several items that were discussed at the TAC including the status of a Feasibility Study on the Rio Vista Unit, a fish screen project at Roberts Ditch, the CALFED Riparian Sanctuary Study on the Refuge and preliminary approval for funding to address issues at the La Barranca Unit. The TAC may consider a site visit to the Ordbend Unit Restoration Project; the project has incorporated several measures to help lessen adverse impacts to adjacent landowners. Two projects were discussed, the Tisdale Boat Launching Facility, and the acquisition of 83 acres inside the levee in Glenn County. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for October 7th, 9:30 a.m., at the Willows City Hall.

7. Boat Ramp Permitting – Denny had emailed the Board regarding the problems Glenn County’s Building and Grounds Department was encountering while trying to obtain permits to dredge their two boat ramps. Glenn County is developing a “white paper” on the issue and Denny informed the Board he would be willing to chair a committee to look at permit streamlining and to take the white paper to the agencies. Bill Borrer noted Tehama County could make a white paper available as well and volunteered to serve on the committee along with Dave Womble. There is legislation on the Governor’s desk regarding the New Bay-Delta Enhancement Stamp which would expand, from the former Striped Bass Stamp, both the fish species covered and the geographic range up the river systems. Revenues may eventually provide more DFG staffing to help these kinds of issues. (Note: Since the September meeting, this was subsequently signed into law by the Governor, SB1049.)
8. Manager’s Report – Burt Bundy
 - Colusa Sub-reach – The Board Steering Committee has had two meetings. A draft contract and MOA between the SRCAF and TNC will be brought to the next meeting; the TNC/CALFED contract is not yet in place. A letter was received from the City of Colusa, with support letters from the Office of the Sheriff, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Boating and Waterways, and Colusa County Board of Supervisors, requesting some of the funding for the Colusa Sub-reach study be used to conduct a feasibility study for the relocation of the existing boat launch.
 - Hamilton City – A COE Feasibility Study Conference (F-4) was held on August 28th to discuss the study and confirm the selection of the levee alternative. The Glenn County Board of Supervisors drafted a letter to Congressman Herger requesting special language for WRDA 2004 that would allow credit for restoration activities in and around Hamilton City prior to the final project being formally approved. A letter of support was also sent to the COE expressing appreciation for the open process that has encouraged local input and participation.
 - Woodson Bridge – The project is continuing to move forward with 75% of the baseline hydraulic studies completed and the geomorphic assessment almost finished. A notice will be out in the next day or two with information on the study and announcing an upcoming public meeting on November 12th, location to be determined.
 - Tehama City – This is a COE flood control project that involves raising homes in Tehama and installing foundations of cinder blocks.
 - SRCAF brochures – Over 600 were recently mailed with many positive responses received back.
9. Future Meeting Dates – The Executive Committee recommended not having a Board meeting in October because of the planning workshop on October 24th and combining the November and December meetings on December 4th. Jane Dolan moved to accept December 4th for the next Board meeting, seconded by Marc Faye. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned 5:10 p.m.